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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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• ROUTINE

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25X1-E2X30-3

GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.

SECRET

100440 Z [redacted] (b)(1) (b)(3)

DIST 10 SEPTEMBER 1968

COUNTRY: GUATEMALA

DOI: [redacted] MICRO (b)(1) (b)(3)

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE IDENTIFICATION OF MEMBERS OF THE REBEL ARMED FORCES WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE ASSASSINATION OF AMBASSADOR JOHN GORDON MEIN

ACQ: [redacted] (b)(1) (b)(3)

[redacted] (b)(1) (b)(3)

SOURCE: [redacted] (b)(1) (b)(3)

1. ON 6 SEPTEMBER 1968 AGENTS OF THE NATIONAL POLICE CAPTURED JULIO CESAR ORTIZ, WHO WAS SEEN TEARING THE REWARD POSTERS FOR THE CAPTURE OF THE ASSASSINS OF AMBASSADOR JOHN GORDON MEIN FROM THE WALLS IN ZONE 1, GUATEMALA CITY. BEFORE HE WAS APPREHENDED, ORTIZ SHOT AND KILLED A NATIONAL POLICEMAN. (b)(1) (b)(3)

2. DURING HIS INTERROGATION BY OFFICIALS OF THE NATIONAL POLICE,

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ORTIZ ADMITTED TO BEING A MEMBER OF THE REBEL ARMED FORCES (FAR, CUBAN-ORIENTED INSURGENCY MOVEMENT) AND TO PARTICIPATING IN THE ASSASSINATION OF AMBASSADOR MEIN ON 28 AUGUST. HE SAID THAT HIS TASK IN THE ASSASSINATION WAS TO WATCH FOR THE APPEARANCE OF POLICE CARS DURING THE EPISODE, AND FOR THIS REASON HE WAS INSTRUCTED TO MOUNT A FOOT SURVEILLANCE ON LA REFORMA AVENUE IN THE AREA WHERE THE AMBASSADOR WAS TO BE INTERCEPTED. HE ADDED THAT THE INTENTION OF THE FAR WAS TO ABDUCT THE AMBASSADOR AND THEN EXCHANGE HIM FOR CARLOS FRANCISCO ORDONEZ MONTEAGUDO, AKA CAMILO SANCHEZ, LEADER OF THE FAR WHO WAS CAPTURED ON 24 AUGUST 1968.

3. ORTIZ IDENTIFIED THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AS PARTICIPATING IN THE AMBASSADOR'S ASSASSINATION: FRANCISCO ABRAHAM SOTO DE LA ROSA, AKA "ARMANDO;" PERCY AMILCAR JACOBS DE LEON, AKA "RAMIRO;" JULIO RUBEN LANDA CASTANEDA, AKA "RODRIGO;" "JAIME," ALSO CALLED "SONRISAS;" "FREDY;" "IVAN;" "BENADRIL;" "EL SECO;" AND TWO OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHOM HE COULD NOT IDENTIFY. ORTIZ SAID THAT "JAMIE" WAS THE PERSON WHO SHOT THE AMBASSADOR. EXCEPT FOR HIMSELF, JACOBS, AND "EL SECO," WHO WERE ON FOOT, ORTIZ SAID THAT ALL OF THE ABOVE CITED PERSONS ARRIVED IN THE TWO VEHICLES USED DURING THE ASSASSINATION. HE IDENTIFIED THE TWO VEHICLES AS A RED

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TOYOTA AND A GREEN CHEVROLET CHEVELLE. ORTIZ ALSO SAID THAT JACOBS AND "EL SECO" COMMANDEERED A TAXICAB AFTER THE ASSASSINATION IN ORDER TO ESCAPE FROM THE AREA.

4. [ ] COMMENT: [ ] REPORTED THAT (b)(3)
ADOLFO MENDIZABAL CHAN, A FAR MEMBER WHO WAS A THIRD YEAR STUDENT (b)(3)
IN THE FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AT SAN CARLOS UNIVERSITY, USED THE
(b)(3) PSEUDONYM OF "JAIME" AND "JUAN". [ ]
REPORTED THAT ONE "ARMANDO" WAS CHIEF OF THE INFORMATION SECTION
OF THE FAR. JACOBS AND LANDA ARE WELL-KNOWN FAR LEADERS. THE
PSEUDONYM OF "FREDY" HAS BEEN REPORTED TO BE USED BY JOSE ALFREDO
ALDANA PAIZ AND BY HUMBERTO PINEDA ALDANA. "IVAN" WAS REPORTED
BY A MEMBER OF THE FAR [ ] (b)(1)
(b)(3)
TO BE ANOTHER PSEUDONYM USED BY "JUAN", CHIEF OF FAR FINANCES.
SOURCE COULD NOT IDENTIFY THE TRUE NAME OF THIS INDIVIDUAL. THE
OTHER PSEUDONYMS LISTED CANNOT BE IDENTIFIED.)

5. [ ] DISSEM: STATE, ARMY, AIR, CINCSO, CINCLANT. (ALSO (b)(3)
SENT [ ] (b)(1)
(b)(3)

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